

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02351 241100Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /031 W

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R 240923Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 835

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2351

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: TOTAL TOADY TURNS AGAIN: PRIMITIVO MIJARES DEFECTS

REF: A) STATE 40130; B) MANILA 2294

1. MISSION ABLE CONFIRM PRIMITIVO MIJARES, FORMER CHAIRMAN
MEDIA ADVISORY COUNCIL (ABOLISHED NOVEMBER 1974) AND
WELL-KNOWN PHILIPPINE COLUMNIST AND MARCOS APOLOGIST HAS
IN FACT ABANDONED NEW SOCIETY.

2. MIJARES' MOVED NOT SURPRISING TO MANILA COMMUNITY WHICH
RECOGNIZES HIM AS COMPLETE OPPORTUNIST WHO RECENTLY WAS
FEELING HOT BREATH OF MARTIAL LAW REGIME FOR CERTAIN RECENT
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. ALLEGEDLY, MIJARES GAMBLED
AWAY 50,000 DOLLARS OF GOP FUNDS DURING A 1974 LAS VEGAS
VISIT, MISAPPROPRIATED FOR PERSONAL USE 7,000 DOLLARS OF
THE FIRST LADY'S PERSONAL FUNDS AND ATTEMPTED TO RAPE A
WELL CONNECTED PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SERVICE SECRETARY WHILE
IN NEW YORK FOR THE TRADE CENTER OPENING, ALL OF WHICH
ACCUMULATED TO MAKE PROSPECT OF RETURN TO PHILIPPINES
DECREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE.

3. FINAL PUSH TO ACTION MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY
PHILIPPINE OPPOSITION GROUP IN US AND FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS
OF LOPEZ FAMILY MEMBERS. LOCAL LOPEZES GOT WORD OF SAN FRANCISCO
STORY FEBRUARY 21 AND QUICKLY BEGAN TELEPHONING GLAD NEWS
AROUND TOWN.
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PAGE 02 MANILA 02351 241100Z

4. RUMORS PERSIST THAT MIJARES DAILY COLUMN IN MARCOS NEWS-PAPER EXPRESS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRINTED IN ORDER TO POSTPONE PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF MIJARES' DEPARTURE. HOWEVER, IT FAILED TO APPEAR FOR FIRST TIME FEB. 21. COLUMN HAS ALWAYS BEEN GHOSTED BY SEVERAL ASSOCIATES ANYWAY SO THAT ABSENCE OF MIJARES' PERSONAL TOUCH WOULD HARDLY BE NOTICED.

5. COMMENT: MIJARES' DEPARTURE NO MATTER HOW PHRASED OR DESCRIBED AND NOTWITHSTANDING HIS LOW ESTEEM IN COMMUNITY CANNOT HELP BUT BE ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT TO MARCOS. INVOLVEMENT OF LOPEZES IN HIS DECISION TO DENOUNCE MARCOS WILL BE PARTICULARLY DISTURBING. MIJARES HAS BEEN CONTINUAL SUPPORTER OF MARCOS FOR NUMBER OF YEARS AND ALONE AMONG PRE-MARTIAL LAW JOURNALISTS WAS UNQUESTIONED ADMIRER OF PRESIDENTS. AS CONSEQUENCE, HE REPORTEDLY WAS ONE OF FEW INTIMATES WHO HAD DIRECT ACCESS TO MARCOS' STUDY. HE HAS PERFORMED MANY SERVICES FOR MARTIAL LAW REGIME AND UNDOUBTEDLY HAS MUCH INSIDE KNOWLEDGE THAT, IF MADE PUBLIC, COULD CAUSE DISTRESS TO GOP. HOWEVER, MIJARES HAS BEEN CANNY ENOUGH IN THE PAST THAT HE MAY CHOOSE NOT TO REVEAL ALL MERELY TO INSURE THAT AT LEAST SOME BRIDGE REMAINS UNBURNED. ALLEGATION ABOUT REFERENDUM, REF B, HOWEVER, ALMOST DAMAGING ENOUGH IN ITSELF TO MAKE MIJARES PERSONNA NON GRATA.

6. ASSUME MARCOS WILL WANT TO KEEP THIS QUITE AS LONG AS HE CAN. IF IT BEGINS TO SEEP OUT, HE MAY WANT TO SMEAR MIJARES WITH IRREGULARITIES INCLUDING ASSOCIATION WITH LOPEZES. WHAT REPERCUSSIONS THAT COULD HAVE ON PROSPECTS OF RELEASE OF EUGENIO LOPEZ JR. IS ANYONE'S GUESS. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, DEFLECTION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA02351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750064-0542
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750219/aaaaaqrh.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 40130, 75 MANILA 2294
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOTAL TOADY TURNS AGAIN: PRIMITIVO MIJARES DEFECTS
TAGS: PINT, RP, (MIJARES, PRIMITIVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006